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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 561

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mrs. Virginia Vaughan of Weakley County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. Virginia Vaughan; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Vaughan was an exemplary public servant and consummate educator who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, "Miss Jenny," as she was affectionately known, served with acumen and alacrity as a distinguished educator in the Weakley County School System until her retirement, in which position she earned the respect of her students, fellow teachers, and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work and the special interest she took in her students; and

WHEREAS, it was Miss Jenny, through one of her class's school projects, who was instrumental in the campaign to establish limestone as the State rock. As the official historian for Weakley County over the past three decades, from 1971 to 2001, Mrs. Vaughan was influential in establishing, as a co-founder and then as the first Chairman of the Board, the Martin Arts Commission; and

WHEREAS, she was the President of the Weakley County Education Association in the early 1970s and was an organizing member of the Martin Historical Zoning Commission from 1986 to 1992; and

WHEREAS, a noted poet, author, and historian, Miss Jenny Vaughan was, in the eloquent words of her son Jim, "a force of nature... a dynamo, ...[having] loved life and people, and was extremely creative"; and

WHEREAS, her poems had been published in local newspapers, and several of her works concerning Weakley County's and the City of Martin's respective histories had also been published. Noted around the area for her historical knowledge and her many good works, Mrs. Vaughan received the Chancellor's Award in October of 2001 from the University of Tennessee at Martin for her distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Governor McWherter named her to a panel that oversaw a \$25 million overhaul of the Capitol Hill to commemorate Tennessee's Bicentennial in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Vaughan was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Vaughan enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband James Wilbur Vaughan who preceded her in death, and was the proud parent of Mary Vaughan Carpenter, of Union City, and Jim Vaughan of Murray, Kentucky; she was the loving grandmother of four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Vaughan leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mrs. Virginia Vaughan, reflecting fondly upon her

impeccable character and many talents as an educator and public servant and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Vaughan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.